

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-24 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-14, 18-21, 23 and 24 are rejected. Claims 3, 7, 10, 17 and 22 are objected to.

Claims 1-13, 18 and 21 are canceled without prejudice and claims 17 and 20 are amended; the amendments are fully supported in the application as filed and introduce no new matter.

Applicants thank SPE Weber for the courtesy of a telephone interview on February 27, 2007, indicating that the present Amendment would put the application in condition for allowance and that a Request for Continued Examination would not be necessary. Applicants thus respectfully request consideration of the following arguments.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 14, 18-21, 23, and 24 are provisionally rejected under non-obvious type double patenting over claims 29, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 38 of co-pending Application No. 10/865,893.

Claims 14, 18, and 21 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. For claims 19, 20, 23, and 24, Applicants herein submit a Terminal Disclaimer as required under M.P.E.P. §804

OBJECTIONS

Objected to claims 17-21 are amended to correct claim dependency and overcome the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by Nikiforov '655 as evidenced by Cox '189.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-13 are canceled without prejudice, thus the rejection is moot with respect to these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the application is in complete condition for allowance, and authorize credit card payment of the fees due for one month extension of time and the Terminal Disclaimer (see Electronic Fee Calculation sheet), which are the only fees believed due. If any other fees are necessary, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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